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Three Stages in the Life of a Political Turn-Coat

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Three stages in the life of a Political Turn-coat—

Showing how an INTENSIFIED WAR Democrat is gradually transformed into a malignant Copperhead.

BION BRADBURY in the years 1861, 1862 and 1863.

When the war broke out by the assault on Fort Sumpter in April, 1861, no man in Maine was more earnest and ultra for crushing the rebellion by force of arms than Hon. Bion Bradbury. He was for open, decided war, using all the means and instrumentalities which military necessity might call for, and moreover declared the President to be the sole judge of *military necessity*. As the exponent of these ideas Mr. Bradbury was in September, 1861, elected to the Legislature from Eastport by the votes of all Union men, both Republicans and Democrats. Mr. Bradbury came to the Legislature in January, 1862, a furious war man. He was professedly in favor of ignoring all party ties, and voted with the Republicans for their candidate for Speaker.

On the 5th of March, 1862, Mr. Bradbury introduced into the House of Representatives the following series of Resolutions. The second and third resolutions are largely made up of quotations from the Address of Governor Washburn to the Legislature— which Address Mr. Bradbury very warmly approved.

Resolved, That the people repose an unwavering confidence in the ability, integrity and patriotism of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States; and while fully approving of the policy by which he has thus far been guided in the conduct of the existing war, they pledge themselves to rally around and sustain his administration in the prompt and vigorous employment of all legitimate means and measures now demanded, *or which may hereafter be demanded by the exigencies of the hour*, for the speedy and thorough suppression of this rebellion, and the complete vindication of the authority of the constitution and laws.

Resolved, That the Union 'is to be defended and the constitution preserved, not by democrats, not by republicans, but by men who love their country—and all men of whatever party, who are for the government and will stand by it and fight for it, are brethren;' that we 'know no difference, and will know no difference,' and 'we will hold that man as wanting in the highest quality of patriotism, who will know any distinction between men, founded upon their former party relations.'

Resolved, That, giving what we have to our country, 'we will ask only that the war shall be prosecuted honestly and vigorously, and with the one, true, legitimate, constitutional purpose—that the government of Washington and his compatriots shall be sustained and perpetuated, and that the flag of beauty and empire so long 'known and honored throughout the world,' as the emblem of national strength and renown, shall speak everywhere in the future as it has spoken in the past, those words of lofty patriotism, 'LIBERTY AND UNION, NOW AND FOREVER, ONE AND INSEPARABLE;' the Union of the American States and the Liberty of the American people!

And to this end we will expect and demand that all lawful, *usual, efficient measures and policies* shall be adopted which shall tend to promote a speedy and successful termination of the war."

On the 12th of March Mr. Bradbury called up these Resolutions and made a lengthy speech in favor of them. Subsequently Mr. Bradbury carefully revised his speech for publication, and it was duly published in the *Augusta Age* of April 11, 1862. From that speech the following are literal and exact quotations. Mr. Bradbury said:

"It is due to the Chief Magistrate of the Nation that this House should express its cordial approval of the past policy of the conduct of the war and renew its pledge of unwavering confidence and generous support. In a new and untried position, with new and perplexing duties imposed upon him by the development of a wide-spread and wicked conspiracy to overthrow the Government, with traitors all about him, with a scattered and feeble army, with a navy floating in all the other seas but our own, with an exhausted treasury—thus powerless in the presence of a gigantic rebellion long preconcerted and thoroughly matured—President Lincoln met the great and delicate responsibilities of his situation with a wise judgment, a calm prudence, and patient firmness which commands my admiration."

* * * * *

"I am for the Union with or without slavery. Give me back the old constitution—the old government—all the States, old and new—the old flag, with no stripe erased, no star obscured, under which for more than eighty years we have grown rich, powerful and great,—and I am willing to take them though the local and national guaranties of slavery remain unchanged. I will go further, and say that if this rebellion be not speedily crushed, *if the conspirators against the Government obstinately protract this war, if as our armies move southward MILITARY NECESSITY strikes the fetters from the bondmen of rebels, it will occasion me no regret.*"

* * * * *

"The executive war power, whether it be foreign or domestic, lies with the commander-in-chief of the army and navy. It is the duty of the President to enforce the laws of the land, *to suppress insurrection, to crush rebellion*—to use the physical force necessary to accomplish these objects—and *it is in his discretion to determine what policy a military necessity may demand of him.* Congress has no authority over the

matter, either under the Constitution or under the war power outside of the Constitution."

"I intend to know no party so long as the Government is in peril. Party ties are the merest jack-thread in this great emergency. I care for no political organizations or partizan platforms. I am for the Union and the Constitution and for the speedy crushing of the rebellion."

"And, Mr. Speaker, I have an invitation to give. I invite you, sir, as a return for your civility, to abandon your partizan associations, not to join the Democratic party, but to connect yourself with the great party of the Union and the Constitution, composed of all loyal men, democrats and republicans, who are for the government and will stand by it and fight for it."

Such was Mr. Bradbury's position in March, 1862; first among the foremost in supporting the war measures of the Administration, and boldly declaring that the President of the United States has it "*in his discretion to determine what policy a military necessity may demand of him.*" Mr. Bradbury declared moreover, that "if the Rebellion was not speedily crushed," "if the conspirators against the Government obstinately protract the war," *military necessity might strike the fetters from the bondmen of rebels and occasion him no regret.*"

In the ensuing summer after Mr. Bradbury had made this famous speech, he tried hard for the gubernatorial nomination from the Jameson wing of the Democracy at their Convention in Bangor. Failing in this he sought the nomination of the Dana-Peace-Wing of the Democracy, and under the manipulation of his friend Samuel J. Anderson, obtained it. In accepting this nomination, Mr. Bradbury wrote a half-war, half-peace kind of letter.

Defeated in the election, Mr. Bradbury went South, and spent the winter in New Orleans.

Returning to Maine in the Spring of 1863, Mr. Bradbury put himself up as a candidate for the nomination of the regular Copperhead party—and having effectually recanted all his previous professions and positions, he received it. The War Democrat of 1861—the doubtful man of the summer of 1862—turns out the malignant Copperhead of 1863. He now stands on a platform that ignores every principle he contended for in 1862—and to show that Mr. Bradbury is even worse than the platform he stands on, the following is quoted from the debates in the Convention which

nominated him. Gen. S. J. Anderson, be it remembered, spoke as Mr. Bradbury's next friend and mouth-piece:

"Virgil Delphini Paris.—Before General Anderson leaves the platform I wish to ask him, whether from his intercourse and conversation with Mr. Bradbury, he can state that Mr. Bradbury occupies the same position that he did a year ago in regard to the war."

Anderson—I think Mr. Bradbury's position is that of opposition to the war; with or without qualification he is opposed to the war. I don't say, gentlemen—I do not wish to be held responsible for what I don't say—I don't say there could not have arisen circumstances under which Mr. Bradbury might have favored the prosecution of the war. These circumstances do not arise now. He is as much opposed to the war, as any gentleman present is or can be.

V. D. P.—One year ago, then, he was in favor of the war. I will introduce private conversation. Mr. Bradbury has said within a fortnight, if we do adopt anti-war resolutions we shall lose the State by 25,000 to 30,000 majority. As far as he has gone in his letter, I go with him, but he has not denounced this wicked, this unholy, this hellish war.

Merrow, of Topsham—I wish to ask Gen. Anderson if Mr. Bradbury were elected Governor of Maine, he would, as he would have a right to do, withdraw the troops in the field?

Gen. Anderson—When Governor Seymour of New York withdraws his troops and the Governor of New Jersey withdraws his troops, and Tom Seymour of Connecticut, who will soon be Governor, (cheers) and whose views are more like the gentlemen's and my own, withdraws his troops, then I pledge you Mr. Bradbury, if elected Governor, will withdraw the troops of Maine."

Facts for the People.

Whose opposition to the War for the Union discouraged the raising of soldiers by the volunteer system, rendering necessary the Conscription Law? *The Copperheads of the North.*

Who are encouraging the Southern rebels to remain in arms, prolonging the War, and increasing the debt and suffering of the nation? *The Copperhead Democracy.*

What is now the chief obstacle to the speedy suppression of the Rebellion and the sure return of peace?—*The Copperhead opposition to the National government in the North.*